

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 have been amended, and claims 27-30 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-26 are again presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

Initially, applicant has made several amendments to the specification in order to correct typographical and/or grammatical errors found therein. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has also inserted a new Abstract to replace the Abstract objected to by the Examiner. No new matter is included in the new Abstract.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-26. Applicant submits that the amendments to these claims set forth above are merely intended to clarify these claims and to place them in a better condition for U.S. practice. None of these amendments relates to the patentability of these claims, and none of the amendments changes the scope of the claims. Accordingly, applicant submits that these amendments are clearly enterable and do not affect the allowability of these claims over the prior art.

In the Official Action, claims 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by European Patent Publication No. 0933724A1 to Sugimura. As noted above, applicant has cancelled claims 27-30. Applicant submits that the cancellation of these claims now renders the foregoing rejection moot.

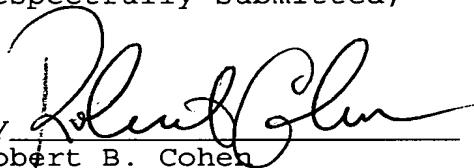
Applicant has briefly reviewed the additional prior art references cited in the Official Action but not relied upon by the Examiner, and believes them to be no more pertinent to the present invention than as discussed in the Official Action.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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